

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 TRSE-00 HEW-06 ISO-00 /021 W

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R 071434Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1972

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, ELAB, TD

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL SECURITY OPERATIONS

REF: PORT OF SPAIN A-66

1. THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD (NIB) OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE T&T SOCIAL INSURANCE SYSTEM, IS SENDING TWO OF ITS SENIOR OFFICERS ON A FACT-FINDING TRIP TO THE U.K. AND THE U.S. LATER THIS MONTH. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO EXAMINE THE MECHANICS OF THE OPERATIONS AND REGULATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES FOR ESTABLISHING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR AND MAKING PAYMENTS OF LONG-TERM SOCIAL INSURANCE BENEFITS, SUCH AS PENSIONS, TO CITIZENS OF TRINIDAD AFTER THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED TO TRINIDAD. THE NIB OFFICERS, LENNOX PAUL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND EUGENE TSOI-A-FATT, LEGAL ADVISOR, ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT HOW CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS AND REGULATIONS AFFECT SUCH PAYMENTS.

2. THIS TRIP IS RELATED IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE REFERENCE AIRGRAM BUT IS INTENDED TO BE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE BROADER QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL PENSION RECIPROCITY. ACCORDING TO MR. PAUL, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF TRINIDADIANS IN THE U.K. HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN COMING HOME BUT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BECAUSE THE MOVE WOULD COST THEM THEIR BRITISH PENSIONS. A SIMILAR, THOUGH LESS SEVERE PROBLEM EXISTS WITH THE U.S. PAUL SAID, THE GOTT HAS CONSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES

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OF ESTABLISHING RECIPROCAL PENSION ARRANGEMENTS TO COVER

THESE CASES.

3. THE NIB HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH THE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER. THE NIB OFFICERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SPEND TWO DAYS AT THAT TIME IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR BALTIMORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SSA'S PREFERENCE.

4. REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT SET UP MEETINGS WITH THE SSA AND INFORM THE EMBASSY OF ARRANGEMENTS AND POINT OF CONTACT FOR VISITORS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY, IF PRELIMINARY, INDICATION THAT THE PROPOSED DATES FOR THE MEETING ARE POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN INFORM THE NIB BEFORE PAUL AND TSOI-A-FATT DEPART FOR THE U.K. IN AUGUST 22. DETAILS OF VISIT CAN BE RELAYED TO THEM IN LONDON IF NECESSARY.
RICH

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